Minutes of the Meeting of Durness Community Council, Monday 11th March at 7.30pm Durness Village Hall.

1. **Present:** Anne Mackenzie *Treasurer*, Donald Mitchell, Neil Fuller, Nick Barth, Sarah Fuller *Secretary*, Cllr. Hugh Morrison, P.C. Sutherland,
   Apologies: Kevin Crowe & Denise McNamara.
   Absent: Francis Keith

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

   The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by Anne Mackenzie and seconded by Donald Mitchell with one amendment.

3. **Matters Arising.**

- Housing. No progress as yet.
- M.O.D. The Report on the beached whales is still to be finalised. There is a possibility of funding from the freemasons for lighting at the Helipad.
- Puffin Link. Visit Scotland to be asked to part fund, Donald is to explore options. A collection box similar to that of Lochinvers is to be explored.
- Rob Donn Memorial. Cllr. Deferred to next meeting.
- Ambulance & Air Ambulance Provision. Contact has been established with Andrew Muir.
- Erection of Flagpole. There is a possibility of funding from the Armed Forces Covenant. A meeting is to take place on March 20th in Inverness.
- Lynx Bone. The carbon dating report has arrived, dating the bone to 5308 BC.
- Keodale Risk Assessment. Still to be undertaken. Chemicals have arrived to treat the piers.
- X Ray Machine. No progress as yet.

4. **Police Matters.**
   A report has been made of an unaccompanied dog harassing tourists on Sango Beach, the family concerned immediately left the village. PC Sutherland stated that a dog should be kept under proper control at all times and failure to comply may result in prosecution. Donald is to contact Access Officer Matt Dent regarding warning to dog owner signs.

5. **Reports.**
   - **D.D.G.**

   A meeting is to take place on March 22nd of the Port Chamuill Harbour subcommittee. Funding has been obtained from a local Charity to enable applications to be made to progress the Health Hub Project. The recent 'Row to Hoy' fundraiser for the Health Hub was very well supported and successful.
   Two new Youth Workers are now in post and have undertaken to source their own funding in future.
   Applications for funding to return the Bard Terrace House to social housing are to be submitted this month.

- **Geopark.**

A request for part funding of Donald Fishers travel expenses to the European Geopark Networks summit in Paris later this month was agreed in principle.

- **Treasurers Report.**

The Durness C.C. bank balance currently stands at £3509.58p.
The monies left from the motor club have now been paid to the Youth Club, who passed on their thanks.
Some money from website adverts has been received.

6. **Planning Applications.**
   Amendments to a previous application at Rispond which was not previously objected too were noted.

7. **Smoo & Borallie Caves.**
   Rock scaling is to take place around Smoo Cave on Thursday 21st March, please note the cave will be closed to the public whilst this takes place.

8. **Dogs.**
   It has been brought to the attention of the C.C. that bags of dog excrement have been left at the entrance to Balnakeil beach. A dog litter bin is to be sourced for this location.

9. **Public Transport.**
   A meeting is to take place in Durness Village Hall on Tuesday 12th March with representatives of the H.C. to explore the possibilities of buses meeting the 19.40pm train in Lairg enabling the residents of the far north to travel to and from Inverness in the same day. A letter of support is to be sent from the C.C.

10. **Graham & Jill's farewell Party.**
    David Morrison is no longer able to attend this event.
    A poster reminding people of the event and the transport is to be put up.
    Graham & Jill are to be offered transport to and from the event.
    The C.C. are to donate £50 to the collection.

11. **A.O.B.**

- A letter of complaint is to be sent to the Post Office Delivery Office Manager regarding the loss of the Postman's job from the locality..

- Donald has taken delivery of the 240 trees. The Youth club are to help with planting. The C.C. are paying £50.00 towards the cost of tree guards.

- The Cape Wrath Challenge Committee require a de-fibrillator for the Capeside marathon event, it is thought that Dr Belbin previously agreed to loan one.

- £5,000 has been given from the Ward Discretionary Budget for maintenance of the Cape Wrath road. The M.o.D. are to help transfer materials. The work is hoped to take place in May.

- Cllr Morrison suggested picnic benches for the ferry point at Keodale. Possibilities for siting are to be explored.

12. Date of Next Meeting. Monday 6th May at 7.30pm, Durness Village Hall.